Examination of cruelty on animals by Haffkine Bio-Pharma Corporation Ltd.

2380. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry had sent a team twice to the Haffkine Bio-pharma Corporation Ltd., Pune to examine the horrifying instance of committing cruelty on animals;

(b) if so, the details of findings of the teams;

(c) the action Government have taken against the Haffkins Bio- pharma Corporation Ltd. after the visit of the study teams; and

(d) the steps being taken to check cruelty to animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The inspection team was sent from the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals, which is constituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

(b) The teams found that even basic ethics in animal experiments is not followed in Haffkine Bio-Pharma Corporation Ltd., Pune. The general care and maintenance of the animals was found to be very poor. Sick, blind equines and pregnant mares are also being used in the production of Anti-Snake Venom Serum. Overcrowding of animals and unhygienic conditions were noticed. It was seen that proper procedures for the production of Anti-Snake Venom Serum were not being followed. Overage horses were being used. There were cases of horses being over bled for the production of Anti- Snake Venom Serum.

(c) The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals has formed a Sub-Committee to examine the case related to Haffkine Bio-Pharma Corpn. Ltd. Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervison of Experiments on Animals has prescribed the standard procedure to be dropted in the production of Anti-Snake Venom Serum, which has been communicated to the institute. Similarly instructions have been given to carry out necessary improvement in the infrastructure.

(d) The veterinary experts from Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals are visiting the institute to held in improving the general standards of Animal Care, medical care of sick horses and improvement in the procedures being adopted.